

September 30, 2022
Issue 7



STEM Academy Head of School Update

Mr. Art Campbell, Head of School

Ms. Kelly Stauffer, Admin. Asst. to the Head of School

Good Evening STEM Academy Families,

The STEM Academy Application for the 2023-2024 Class of 2027 is open now through October 23, 2022. Please be sure to that share information with friends or family that may be eligible and interested in applying.

As a reminder, there will be no school on Wednesday, October 5 in observance of Yom Kippur.

Looking ahead, please be advised that on October 11, *Minding Your Mind* will be presenting to our students grades 9 – 12. Minding Your Mind is a non-profit organization that works to promote mental health awareness and reduce the stigma around mental health. The presentation provides signs and symptoms of mental health concerns and emphasizes the value of asking for help or seeking treatment if appropriate. As always, if students are upset or emotional, School Counseling Staff and the Prevention Specialist will be available for support. If you would like additional information, or to read our presenter Scott's Bio, please visit <http://www.mindingyourmind.org/>. If there are any questions, please reach out to Ms. Jennifer Stull, jstull@dasd.org

Art Campbell
Head of School

DASD STEM Academy

335 Manor Ave.
Downingtown, PA 19335

Phone: 610-269-2420 Fax: 484-694-5590 Email: stinfo@dasd.org

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As a reminder, the new Lunch and Learn Schedule for the 2022-2023 school year went into effect on Tuesday, September 20th. The updated STEM Academy Bell Schedules can be found on our Website and are also listed below:

BELL SCHEDULES

[STEM ACADEMY 2022-2023](#)

[DAILY SCHEDULE](#)

Regular School Day Bell Schedule
7:40 AM - 2:40 PM

[EARLY DISMISSAL/2 HOUR DELAY](#)

[SCHEDULE](#)

Two-Hour Early Dismissal
7:40 AM - 12:40 PM

Two-Hour Delayed Opening
(usually weather related)
9:40 AM - 2:40 PM

**Internships & Partnerships
Opportunity:**

[Interested in Partnering with The STEM
Academy for the Career Exploration
Program for 2023-2024?](#)



Upcoming Events

October

- 1 Class of 2027 :
Application Opens
- 5 No School/Yom Kippur
- 11 Minding Your Mind Assembly (9th-12th grades)
- 12 DEI Presentation (9th Grade, PSAT (Gr 10/11), Senior IB Pancake Breakfast
- 12 Early Dismissal 12:40 pm
- 13 MEA Time Management (Freshmen) 9:00-10:15am
- 14-19 CVC—Safe & Healthy Relationships (12th Grade—during Pathways)
- 23 Class of 2027:
Application Closes
- 24 No School/Diwali
- 28 East/West Pep Rally

November

- 1 Picture Retake Day
- 3 End of 1st Marking Period
- 8 No School/Prof. Dev. Day
- 9 Indian Heritage Event
- 11 Veterans Day
- 17 STEM Powderpuff Game
- 18 Stem Homecoming Dance @ DMS 7:00 pm

[STEM Parent/Student Handbook 2022-2023](#)

[2022-2023 District Board Approved Calendar](#)

[22-23 Program of Study](#)

IB Updates

IB Research Specialist/CAS & EE [Ms. Alyssa Sherlock](#)

Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS) Updates

Senior CAS/Graduation Project Spotlight:

George Liu, Seth Lemler, Ethan Lemler, and Mitchell Goldman are organizing an ultimate frisbee league where we create teams and play on the weekends. To participate, a donation of \$10-20 is required that goes straight to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

Class of 2023 [Seniors]:

Students should continue to keep ManageBac updated, and check Schoology for resources and due dates.

CAS Interview #2 Survey must be completed by October 31.

Extended Essay (EE)

Class of 2023 [Seniors]:

Students are working with their EE Advisor to focus their RQ, review their outline and research, and refine their writing for a rough draft. **Meetings with Advisors should take place by October 28.**

IB Program Requirements

Dean of Curriculum & Instruction/ Dean of 9th & 11th Grade Students [Mr. Michael Sheehan](#)

Admin. Asst. to Dean of. Curr. & Instr. [Ms. Meghan Schell](#)

Attention Seniors: On October 12th, we will be finishing the Group 4 Project. We started this in May when you generated questions to ask at your STEM Practicum. It's important that you are here that day to complete the project. Please make sure you have your questions and any notes about your practicum ready that morning. HSA is planning to have breakfast for you to start the day. Please see Mr. Sheehan with any questions..

INTERNSHIPS & PARTNERSHIPS

[Ms. Susan Boardman](#) Internships & Partnerships Leader

[Ms. Cory Butler](#) Administrative Asst.



Over the summer every STEM Senior completed career explorations at the following companies:

AGC Chemical, AGI, Bentley Systems, Bernardon Architects, Boomi, Charles River Labs, Comcast, Chester County District Attorney's Office, Delaware County Community College Healthcare Experience, Downingtown Police Department; DSM Biomedical, Elite Edge; GSK; iPipeline; Johnson & Johnson, Kinetic PT, Labcorp,

Lockheed Martin, SAP, Southco, Synergy Sports and Orthopedic Physical Therapy, Thermo Fisher Scientific, Tipping Point Media, Unisys and West Pharmaceutical Services.

After the career exploration, the next step is for each student to meet with Ms. Boardman to discuss the experience, get some resume advice and submit a finished Practicum Portfolio. This process is necessary for graduation.

As a reminder- completion of your STEM Practicum is a graduation requirement. If you have any questions regarding the process, please do not hesitate to stop by our office (118) or reach out via email (Mrs. Butler- cbutler@dasd.org or Ms. Boardman sboardman@dasd.org). The Schoology Course "Internships & Partnerships (Senior Career Exploration Portfolio)" has a lot of helpful information as well. If you are not already part of that course, the access code is N49CJ-JZGST

We will be finishing our meetings in the next few weeks. For those students who have not scheduled this is your final opportunity to schedule via our [SignUp Genius](#). If we do not receive your signup by **Tuesday, October 4th**, we will be assigning you to a mandatory session.

STEM Academy Counselors

Ms. Mary Wallin:
Grades 9-12: Last Names A-C

Mr. David Stratton
Grades 9-12: Last Names D-KL

Ms. Kellie McGavin-Wiedlich
Grades 9-12: Last Names Ko-Ra

Ms. Leanne Glowik
Grades 9-12: Re-Z

Ms. Stephanie Rockowitz
Counseling Secretary/Registrar

Ms. Jennifer Stull
Prevention Specialist

Guide to Districtwide Mental Health Resources

College and University Visits

October

- 3 Moravian Univ. 11:00 am
- 3 Ursinus College 11:35 am
- 4 Dartmouth College 11:00 am
- 4 Drexel University 11:35 am
- 10 Penn State Main 11:00 am
- 11 Utica University 8:00 am
- 11 University of Tampa 11:00am
- 11 Muhlenberg College 11:35 am
- 14 College of Charleston 11:00 am
- 14 Univ. of Scranton 11:35am
- 17 Fl. Institute of Tech. 11:00 am
- 17 Univ. of Miami 11:35 am
- 19 Fairfield University 10:30 am
- 20 Washington & Jefferson 11:00am
- 20 Univ. of Pitt.-Bradford 11:35am
- 21 Juniata College 9:00 am
- 21 Union College 11:00 am
- 21 Shippensburg Univ. 11:35 am
- 27 Univ. of Richmond 11:00 am
- 27 Kean University 11:35 am
- 28 Lafayette College 11:00 am
- 29 St. Joe's University 11:35 am

November

- 2 Binghamton University 11:35 am
- 2 Stony Brook University 11:35 am
- 3 NJ Institute of Technology 11:00 am
- 4 Gettysburg College 11:35 am

- ♦ [Additional Resources](#)
- ♦ [Financial Aid Powerpoint](#)
- ♦ [College Application Presentation](#)
- ♦ [Work Permits](#)

STEM Counseling Department

- ♦ On Wednesday, Oct. 12th our 10th and 11th graders are automatically signed up to take the PSAT/NMSQT; a practice version of the SAT exam. The PSAT is 2 hours and 45 minutes long and tests skills in reading, writing, and math. Unlike the SAT, the highest score possible on the PSAT is 1520. 11th graders who take the exam are entered into the *National Merit Scholarship* competition, which awards up to \$180 million dollars in merit scholarships each year to the top scoring students across the country. **Students are encouraged to bring a calculator and #2 pencils.** Test room assignments will be posted on Schoology prior to the test and posted throughout the school building the morning of the exam. Students should have received a copy of the PSAT/NMSQT Student Guide, which includes a practice test, in their literature class the week of Sept. 5th. Extra Student Guides are available in the counseling office. Please see below for more resources:

- ⇒ PSAT/NMSQT: <https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt>
- ⇒ PSAT/NMSQT Student Guide: <https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/media/pdf/psat-nmsqt-student-guide.pdf>
- ⇒ National Merit Scholarship Corporation: <https://www.nationalmerit.org/s/1758/start.aspx?gid=2&pgid=61>
- ⇒ Calculator Policy: <https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt/taking-the-test/what-to-bring-leave/calculator-policy#:~:text=You%20can%20only%20use%20your,these%20sections%20of%20the%20test.>
- ⇒ If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. McGavin-Wiedlich at kmcgavin-wiedlich@dasd.org.

- ♦ Save the date! [Chester County College Fair](#) is on Oct. 17th from 5:30-8:30 at United Sports.
- ♦ Additional University/College Visits can [STEM Academy Website Calendar](#). (These are updated daily and subject to change.)
- ♦ To schedule an appt. to visit your school counselor, please complete the following form: [Counseling Appointment Request Form](#)

UPDATES FROM THE NURSE

- ♦ **Online Registration:** Please remember to complete the Online Registration for your child(ren). This will provide me with updated health information as well as give permission for over the counter medication this school year. Go to [Infinite Campus Parent Portal](#) to complete the process.
- ♦ **Medication:** Students are only permitted to carry emergency medication (Epinephrine, Asthma inhalers, and diabetes medication). Any medication to be administered during the school day, should follow our current medication policy (attach board policy) and complete the [authorization for medication administration](#)
- ♦ Please contact [Ms. Jennifer Mikulich](#) with any questions or concerns.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

Please help us in reminding your student of the following:

- ♦ Whether your student is arriving late to school, has Senior Privileges, or has a parent note to leave early, they must sign in/out of the main office for attendance.
- ♦ All attendance inquiries throughout the school year can be directed to stemattendance@dasd.org
- ♦ Students should scan the QR Codes located outside the main office, and then upload their notes for Early Dismissal, Absence, Tardiness, and Trips.
- ♦ Please review the **attendance policy** in the [Student Code of Conduct](#): Upon 3 unlawful offenses a written notification will be sent to parent; upon 6 unlawful absences, a 2nd notification will be sent, and a School Attendance improvement plan meeting will be required.
- ♦ If you are planning a family trip, please be sure to turn in the [Request Form for Educational and Family Trips](#), no less than 2 weeks prior to the request.

STEM STUDENT LIFE and DASD Activities

The Downingtown STEM Academy offers opportunities for all students to nurture their relational health and wellness needs. We embrace our diverse, collaborative culture, and invite all students, families, and staff to get involved. With over 40 student-led clubs/organizations running annually, celebrated special events, HSA-sponsored activities, well attended Homecoming dances, Powder Puff game and proms, we have a good time! Below is an overview of what to expect during the fall.

[Ms. Katie Cole](#)

Dean of Academics & Student Life

[Ms. Cory Butler](#)

Administrative Asst.

Our students were involved in a variety of activities during Advisory on Friday, 9/30.

9th graders were able to meet with their upper class peer mentors. Small groups will continue to meet throughout the school year during Lunch & Learn 'L' days.

10th graders completed a personality inventory in a new program called Smart Futures.

11th graders were given an introduction to all things CAS and EE.

12th graders were able to drop into our 1st floor mezzanine for a chance to meet with our counselors and get any and all help needed for college applications.



DASD MPA

From the Music Parents' Association:

Thank you to our music family for making this year's Cavalcade an amazing experience for the bands, the judges and all of our guests. Normally, we only produce one home show a year but due to a conflict at West Chester University, we have the opportunity to host US Bands on October 22nd. If you are able to sign up, please do so- <https://mpa.ivolunteer.com/usbands2022>.

We also still need help at some of the football games: <https://mpa.ivolunteer.com>.



DASD Athletics WEST

All students at STEM are encouraged to participate in athletic programs offered at their home schools.

An activity bus is available for students heading to East to participate daily, and is located in the bus loop at dismissal.

To find more information about what sports are offered at your students' homeschool, please choose one of the following that links directly to the correct Athletics page:

[Downingtown East High School Athletics](#)

[Downingtown East High School Athletics Schedule](#)

AND

[Downingtown West High School Athletics](#)

[Downingtown West High School Athletics Schedule](#)

Mark your calendars...

East and West will be holding the annual Pep Rally on Friday, October 28, 2022.

All Fall Athletes are encouraged to wear their Athletic Uniform. Transportation is available to East from STEM. More details will be available at a later date.)

SENIOR REMINDERS—CLASS OF 2023



Save the Date!

October/November Deadlines

Reminder:

Cap and Gown
orders are due by
November 1.

Please reach out to
kstauffer@dasd.org
with any questions.

Reminder for those with Senior Privileges:

- ◆ You MUST sign in at the main office when you arrive to school, and out prior to leaving for the day.
- ◆ You should enter through the main office.
- ◆ You must have completed the [Early Dismissal/Late Arrival Permission form for Seniors](#) and obtained appropriate approval.

- ⇒ You should have received an email containing information to begin the process of ordering the CAP/GOWN/STOLE required for the Class of 2023 Commencement Ceremony, which will be held this year, on Thursday, June 8. The deadline for ordering will be November 1, so that we can assure a timely delivery of all of the necessary items. For more information, please refer to [STEM Senior Class of 2023 Letter from Herff Jones](#)
- ⇒ **How do you choose the senior portrait for the yearbook?** “Log into your Prestige photo account and choose which photo to put in the yearbook. It will need to be one of the drape/tux photos.”
- ⇒ As a reminder- completion of your STEM Practicum is a graduation requirement. If you have any questions regarding the process, please do not hesitate to stop by our office or reach out to [Mrs. Butler](#) or [Ms. Boardman](#). The Schoology Course “Internships & Partnerships (Senior Career Exploration Portfolio)” has a lot of helpful information as well. ***If you are not already part of that course, the access code is N49CJ-JZGST.*** We will be finishing our meetings in the next few weeks. For those students who have not scheduled this is your final opportunity to schedule via our [SignUp Genius](#). If we do not receive your signup by **Tuesday, October 4th**, we will be assigning you to a mandatory session.

MAKE TIME STAND STILL

Hello Senior Families,

It's yearbook ad time! The Downingtown S.T.E.M. Academy staff is already working hard on the yearbook, and we want your senior to be part of it!

Each year the Legacy Yearbook Staff reserves a limited number of pages for senior tribute ads. Each senior family has the opportunity to design and publish a 1/8 page tribute ad in the back of the STEM Legacy Yearbook.

It is super easy to create an ad in our online ad create. Just have your pictures ready to import and your messages written before starting.

Head to yearbookordercenter.com to begin creating your ad today. School code is 13813.

The cost is \$50 and the deadline for ordering an ad is November 30th. While space is limited if you order before this date we can guarantee the space.

Please reach out to Ms. Long (jlong@dasd.org) or Mrs. Romano (jromano@dasd.org)

2022-2023

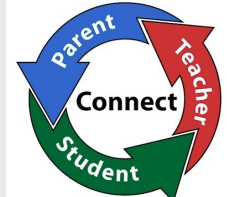
STEM HSA Board

[Michelle Smith, President](#)

[Mary Gasser, Vice-President](#)

[Kristen Wheeler, Secretary](#)

[Darah Fildore, Treasurer](#)



Upcoming

HSA Sponsored Events

October

10 Home & School Meeting
7:00 pm

****Save the date!****

Monday, April 24, 2023:

[FORE the Kids Golf Outing](#)

HSA meetings will be held throughout the year on the second Monday, of each month, beginning at 7:00 pm unless otherwise noted. The First meeting of the year will be in- person.

STEM HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Fall is upon us!

This year the HSA Faculty Appreciation Committee will sponsor 6 events throughout the school year to show our STEM Faculty and Staff just how much we appreciate all they do for our students.

Our first event will be a Fall Breakfast on Thursday, October 6th.

Please see the Sign Up Genius for ways to contribute:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10Co44AA5A92AA13-pumpkin1>

Faculty Appreciation Event

This year the HSA Faculty Appreciation Committee will sponsor 6 events throughout the school year to show our STEM Faculty and Staff just how much we appreciate all they do for our students. Our first event will be a Fall Breakfast on Thurs. October 6th. Please see the Sign-Up Genius for ways to contribute:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10Co44AA5A92AA13-pumpkin1>

Student Life Donations

We can't make these events possible without your generous donations.

Please go to

<https://dtownstemacademy.squarespace.com/stem-donation>

to make your donation today!

These funds directly support our student life activities, including the Senior Pancake Breakfast on October 12th.

From the Yearbook Advisors Ms. Long and Ms. Romano:

Many have been asking how to get my club, class, students, etc in the yearbook. The easiest way for students, parents and teacher to share pictures with our yearbook team is submit them via eshare. Here you can upload pictures, write the captions and tag students, making it MUCH easier for our staff to get them in the yearbook. Please share the following link with your clubs leaders and use it yourself to submit pictures and stories. We cannot guarantee we will be able to use them all but we will do our very best!

Link to eshare: <https://www.hjeshare.com/eShare/?code=13813>

Need to know our school code? School Code: 13813

The yearbook staff greatly appreciates your help in collecting pictures and stories for this year's book.



ONE YEAR. ONE BOOK.
YOUR CHANCE TO PRESERVE IT ALL.

Downingtown S.T.E.M. Academy

\$65

Until 01/06/2023



2 WAYS TO ORDER

1. Online at www.yearbookordercenter.com Order #13813
2. Call Herff Jones Yearbooks M-F 8am-5pm CST 1-866-287-3096 Order # 13813



2nd Annual 5k Run/ Walk (with kid's run)

OCTOBER 9TH, 2022 8:30 A.M.

@DOWNINGTOWN WEST HS

COST \$25

REGISTER HERE:



What Parents Should Know About Cannabis

The cannabis that we might have known in our youth no longer exists. This presentation will provide updated, researched based insight into today's cannabis and its risk to a developing brain. Join us for an eye opening, engaging presentation.



**Tuesday,
October 11, 2022**

**7:00PM
Virtual Zoom**

[Register HERE](#)

Featured Presenter:
Gretchen Hagenbuch, M.Ed.,
CPS, Student Assistance
Program Coordinator, Caron
Treatment Centers



This presentation is part of the DASD Parent Speaker Series in partnership with Communities that Care of Greater Downington.

As a reminder, the new Lunch and Learn Schedule for the 2022-2023 school year went into effect on Tuesday, September 20th. The updated STEM Academy Bell Schedule can be found on our Website and are also listed below:

BELL SCHEDULES

STEM ACADEMY 2022-2023 DAILY SCHEDULE

Regular School Day Bell Schedule
7:40 AM - 2:40 PM

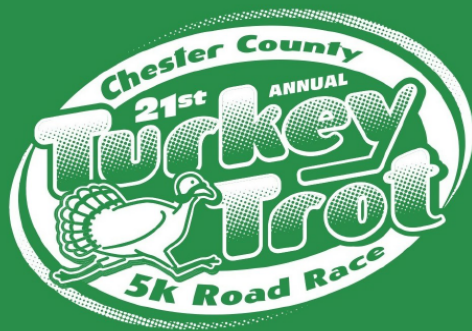
EARLY DISMISSAL/2 HOUR DELAY

SCHEDULE

Two-Hour Early Dismissal
7:40 AM - 12:40 PM



The graphic has a purple-to-orange gradient background. At the top, a gas gauge is shown with the needle pointing to 'E' (Empty). Above the 'E' is the text 'FILL UP YOUR MEALS ACCOUNT' with an arrow pointing to the gauge. Above the 'F' is the text 'FILL UP ON DELICIOUS FOOD' with an arrow pointing to the gauge. Below the gauge, the text 'DON'T GET STUCK ON EMPTY' is written in large, bold, white and yellow letters. In the center, the text 'Fall Menus Now Available!' is written in a purple, serif font. To the right of this text is a black plate with three tacos and a small bowl of salsa. At the bottom left, there is a purple arrow pointing to a QR code. Below the QR code, the text 'Or go to:' is followed by the URL 'https://www.dasd.org/departments/food-services'. At the very bottom, in small print, it says 'Free & Reduced pricing to those who qualify' and '©2022 All rights reserved. All Rights Reserved. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.'



Register Now for the 21st Annual Chester County Turkey Trot!

Registration is now **OPEN** ~ come **TROT** with us on Thanksgiving Morning! T-shirts guaranteed for first 1500 registered.

When: Thanksgiving morning, November 24, 2022

Where: Downingtown West High School

The event is a 5k race, 2k walk, kids fun run and virtual race options. In addition to supporting the Downingtown West Cross Country team, proceeds of the race will benefit the Cure4Cam Childhood Cancer Foundation. See <https://runsignup.com/ccturkeytrot> for all details!